



Cultural Roundtable Committee Minutes

Monday, March 24, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Launcht Minto

Attendance:, Rosie Krul, Jennifer Frayne, Megan Raftis, Mary Jean Hartwig, Raissa Rogers, Bob McEachern, Councillor Ed Podniewicz and Deputy Mayor Jean Anderson.

Staff Present: Belinda Wick-Graham, Director of Economic & Community Development, Erin Raftis, Marketing and Community Development Coordinator, Gordon Duff, Treasurer,

Regrets: Amy Sjaarda, Chair Peggy Raftis, Greg Mallett, Programs and Facilities Coordinator, new member Tate Driscoll.

1. Call to Order at 7:03 p.m. by Belinda Wick-Graham

The Committee welcomed new members, Lynn Jamieson (on behalf of the Volunteer Project), and Tate Driscoll (sent regrets – on behalf of the Palmerston Agricultural Society).

Wick-Graham also mentioned Pete Bradford from the Barrel House will be representing the Minto Chamber of Commerce at future meetings. The Committee is also still waiting on confirmation of interest from the Norgan Theatre Board and will be actively working on youth rep recruitment at the Northern Wellington Works event on March 27th.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. Minutes of January 27, 2025, Cultural Roundtable Meeting

MOTION

Moved by: Megan Raftis Seconded by: Raissa Rogers

THAT the minutes of the January 27, 2025, Cultural Roundtable Meeting be approved.

CARRIED.

3. Updates, Reports and Minutes for Approval

No updates were provided at this time.

4. Roundtable Discussion

a. Culture Days 2025 Working Group & Preliminary Plans

Gordon Duff received commitment from Megan Raftis, Rosie Krul, and Jennifer Frayne to continue on this committee with support from Erin Raftis. Duff asked one of the members to attend the Organizers meeting on April 3rd. Culture Days runs from September 19 – October 12th. Wick-Graham shared that the DEI Committee's Indigenous event will fall in this timeline and fit the mandate. Megan Raftis added that both the Minto Dance Academy and Illustrated Movement Dance Academy are interested in hosting workshops. The group will be having a meeting in April to begin planning.

b. Moving Cultural Plan Action Items Forward

The Committee reviewed the Cultural Action Plan to remain on track for 2025 initiatives. See Schedule 'A' attached.

c. Committee Member Updates

Deputy-Mayor Jean Anderson updated that the Horticultural Society is ramping up for Spring. The Garden Festival is on June 7th in conjunction with Firefighter's Breakfast. Meetings continue every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Gordon Duff reported that the Minto Arts Council's March display is finishing up. In April, the Central Ontario Artist Association Group will have their exhibit, with the grand opening on April 4th. The Norwell Art Show will be in June. He shared that Film Fest is continuing to source Canadian Films. There was great attendance over the past several shows, when weather was good.

Councillor Podniewicz shared that the Lions Club will be working on maintenance in the park this summer and would welcome student volunteers.

Bob McEachern noted that the Railway Museum would work with high school students as volunteers. McEachern also suggested working with the Norwell Arts students to display their art in vacant windows or do rotating art shows. The Committee discussed working with Norwell to partner on "Cut the Mic" to draw a bigger crowd and connect organizations with students. Finally, he shared that Palmerston's 150th Homecoming will increase interest in Palmerston's history.

Belinda Wick-Graham added that the Museum has hired two students, one returning and one from the University of Guelph, and still need one more. She also added that the Economic Development Department is waiting for an update on summer grants to potentially hire a Chamber Student and Tourism/Farmers' Market student.

Jennifer Frayne shared that Northern Wellington Works is on March 27th and all students will attend. She noted the drama production this year is Freaky Friday and is Wed-Sat of the long

weekend at 7pm (no matinees). She shared that the French program has a chef coming into the school to do demonstrations.

Rosie Krul promoted the Wellington County Museum and Archives' March – May Juried Exhibition of Fine Arts display. She reminded the Committee that the libraries allow you to access the Ancestry Database for free. There is an “Ask the Archivist” event coming up on April 14th from 3pm-6pm in Harriston. There will also be lots of PA programming upcoming.

Raissa Rogers mentioned that the Magic Ice Cream Shoppe is open, and they are currently selling baked goods on behalf of the Harriston Bakery. The Crown Harriston is open for private events only.

Megan Raftis shared that the Harriston Historical Society's display is on Fashion & Clothing. They are working towards reprinting the Harriston History Book in 2028. She shared that the Grey Wellington Theatre Guide's next production is “Death Among the Delphiniums” directed by herself. The dates are May 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, and 11.

Erin Raftis shared that the downtowns are getting ready for their upcoming events including

- Egg-Scramble in Harriston on April 19th
- Palmerston Raleway Festival on June 21st
- Clifford Carnival Celebration on July 12th (new! Car Show and Dog Show)
- Harriston Street Party on August 9th

She added that the Minto Farmers' Market is navigating its new public health regulations. It opens on June 7th and the first event, the Strawberry Social, is June 21st. She also shared that new this year, May's Café at the Old Post will offer a hot breakfast (DIY Bubble Waffles and breakfast sandwiches) every other week starting June 14th.

Belinda Wick-Graham reminded the Committee to register by April 10th with the free code for the Cultural Symposium on May 30th. After this date, tickets will open to the public for \$25 each.

5. Adjournment at 8:11 p.m.